



TFW

1754

10/027,192
33872US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Gyanesh P. Khare and Donald R. Engelbert

Serial No.: 10/027,192

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: Wayne A. Langel

For: DESULFURIZATION AND NOVEL SORBENT FOR SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Requirement for Election, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 2-17, drawn to a sorbent composition, classified in Class 502, Subclass 400, but respectfully request reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction for the reasons given below.

Non-elected Group II, claims 18-31, drawn to a process for making a sorbent, classified in Class 502, Subclass 400, and non-elected Group III claims 31-55 drawn to a process for removing sulfur and the product therefrom, classified in Class 208, subclass 243, are retained in this case pending reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction.

The Requirement for Restriction is respectfully traversed. The Requirement for Restriction is based, at least in part, on grounds that the invention(s), as set forth in the Office Action, are distinct and has acquired a separate status in the art as shown by the cited classifications, and that the fields of search are not the same. All art classes referred to in the Office Action properly would be searched even if the Group II and III claims did not exist. In fact, Groups I and II have been classified in both the same class and subclass.

Claims 34-55 claim a method utilizing the composition of the Group I claims and Claims 18-31 claim a method of making the composition claimed in the Group I claims.

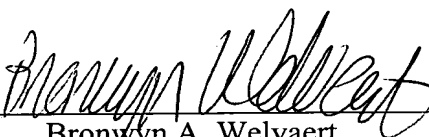
The claims of Group I, drawn to a composition, Group II, drawn to a method of making a composition, and Group III, drawn to a process for removal of sulfur from a hydrocarbon stream using a composition, are sufficiently closely related in this application to be allowable in a single application. All groups of claims clearly relate to the removal of sulfur from a hydrocarbon stream. Furthermore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine MPEP 803, second paragraph, which encourages combinations, such as the combination of the Group I and II claims in this application.

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The claims are so closely related in substance as to render reasonable
the withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction.

Respectfully submitted,

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BAW:adh

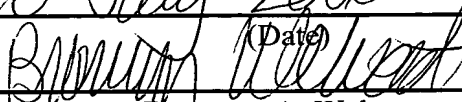
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in
an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

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(Date)


Bronwyn A. Weltaert